



City of Ridgecrest **Police Department**

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RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE OF EVENT: July 12, 2012

TYPE OF EVENT: Hit and Run Accident, Driving under the Influence, Assault with a Firearm against a Peace Officer

LOCATION: 500 block of Howell Ave.

CHARGES: VC 20002(a)(1), VC 23152(a)(b), PC 417(b), PC 417.8, PC 243(c)(1), PC 148(a)(1), PC 243(b)

SUSPECT(S): Arthur W. Porter, 25, Ridgecrest resident

In the evening hours of July 12, 2012, Officer Bill Keys was dispatched to W. Inyokern Rd. regarding a possible DUI driver that had just left Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. The reporting party described the vehicle as a gold colored Mercury sedan and the vehicle was last seen heading toward Inyokern Rd. The reporting party stated that she was inappropriately touched by the driver of the vehicle and she even pleaded with the driver to not drive the vehicle because she believed he was very intoxicated.

A search for the vehicle was conducted; however, the vehicle was not located. Approximately half an hour later, Officer Keys was dispatched to 800 block of N. China Lake Blvd. regarding a hit and run accident that had just occurred. The reporting party had followed the vehicle to the 800 block of N. China Lake Blvd. and had witnessed the vehicle hit two parked cars in the 500 block of W. Drummond Ave. All of the witnesses provided the same description of the vehicle and the same description of the driver of the involved vehicle. The reporting parties also provided the vehicle's license plate number.

The vehicle was located in the 500 block of W. Howell Ave. with a large amount of paint and body damage. The vehicle involved in the accidents in the 500 block of W. Drummond Ave. was the same vehicle description as the earlier DUI driver call on W. Inyokern Rd.

Officer Keys attempted to contact the owner of the vehicle and located Arthur Porter at the residence that the vehicle was parked at. When Porter was contacted, he had a loaded 12 gauge shotgun in his hands and pointed the shotgun at Officer Keys. Porter was ordered to the ground and taken into custody without further incident by Officer Keys and Officer Adam Shaffer. Porter was very intoxicated and matched the description provided by all of the witnesses. Porter was arrested on the above listed charges and was booked at KCJ-Ridgecrest, where he is being held on \$70,000.00 bail.

RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police
PREPARED BY: Officer Kristen Lawson